

their loans. The university's student loan default rate is only 3 percent—again, well below the national average.

Dr. Bowman's first career was working as a speech pathologist at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Danville, IL.

He joined the ISU faculty in 1978 as a professor in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology. He was appointed department chairperson in 1994 and served in that position for 8 years. Even as department chair, Dr. Bowman continued to teach and to serve as director of ISU's Down Syndrome Speech-Language Clinic.

During Dr. Bowman's tenure as director, the department flourished. He doubled the faculty and the scholarly production of the staff. The department won accreditation by the Council on Academic Accreditation of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association and its master's program was ranked for the first time as the top speech and audiology master's program in Illinois.

In 2002, Dr. Bowman was promoted to Illinois State's interim provost where he served until he was named president in 2004.

As president, Dr. Bowman was a driving force behind Illinois State University's first comprehensive campaign, which raised more than \$96 million. He also helped secure \$49 million for a new student fitness and recreation center and \$17.5 million for the renovation of Schroeder Hall, the university's home to the Criminal Justice Sciences, History, Politics and Government, Social Work and Sociology-Anthropology departments.

I congratulate Dr. Al Bowman on his many accomplishments throughout his long and distinguished career.

I thank him for his service and wish him all the best.

REMEMBERING FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

Mr. NELSON. Madam President, I was greatly saddened to learn about the passing of Senator Lautenberg on Monday. I was fortunate to serve with Senator Lautenberg on the Commerce Committee. His life was about public service, plain and simple.

Frank was a great example of the American Dream. Over the past few days we have all heard Frank's story of being born into a Russian and Polish immigrant family, and working his way from humble beginnings to a prosperous career as a chief executive in the private sector. But Frank's true calling was public service and giving back to his community, his State, and our Nation throughout his life. As a young man, he served our country in the U.S. Army in WWII and went to Columbia University on the GI bill.

In Congress, Frank fought to create economic opportunity for all Americans by supporting our public infrastructure. He was a staunch advocate for passenger rail and Amtrak. Frank's

achievements on transportation issues were not only concerned with promoting commerce, but also public safety. His work to ban smoking on domestic flights and combat drunk driving has saved countless lives.

Frank also fought side-by-side with me on the Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee to make sure that critical NASA safety research was being shared with the commercial aviation industry to help protect members of the flying public.

Florida and New Jersey are very different States, but they share a coastline. After the Deepwater Horizon spill devastated the Gulf, I worked with him to stop offshore drilling until more was known about what caused that tragedy. Frank was also a trusted ally in securing essential funding to keep our beaches clean and water safe for people to enjoy.

Frank was a crucial supporter of many other important environmental causes. He fought to keep our oceans clean by pushing for a "double-hull" standard for oil tankers, banning ocean dumping, and taking other steps to promote better water quality. He also sponsored legislation to crackdown on companies that release dangerous toxins into the air and water, and make polluters pay for their toxic mess. Frank was a great champion for the environment.

As the last WW II veteran in the Senate, we lost a true hero on Monday and one of this body's last members of the Greatest Generation.

CONFIRMATION OF WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I would like to take a brief moment to commend the Senate on the confirmation of Judge William H. Pryor, Jr., to the United States Sentencing Commission. Judge Pryor is superbly qualified and has the requisite background and experience to serve and contribute greatly to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. I am grateful to the President for acknowledging Judge Pryor's qualifications and nominating him to this important position.

Judge Pryor succeeded me as Attorney General of Alabama. I was proud of him then and I was also proud when he was confirmed to serve on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Judge Pryor is a man of character and his actions both on and off the bench reflect that. He is committed to equal justice, without prejudice. As Bill Baxley, a mutual friend, a Democrat, and another former attorney general of Alabama said, "In every difficult decision he has made, Judge Pryor's actions were supported by his interpretation of the law, without race, gender, age, political power, wealth, community standing, or any other competing interest affecting his judgment."

That was certainly the case when he carried the banner for sentencing re-

form in Alabama. Judge Pryor insisted that the legislature address critical problems in Alabama's system of sentencing. He has always been in favor of "truth in sentencing." Advocates of sentencing reform have applauded Judge Pryor's efforts in Alabama, as before we had a sentencing commission and sentencing guidelines, criminal defendants often received different sentences for the same crime based on their race, their sex, or where they lived. Judge Pryor was instrumental in changing that.

Advocates of stricter law enforcement also supported Judge Pryor in his efforts to effect reform in Alabama, because "truth in sentencing" also meant that a convicted criminal would be more likely to serve the sentence imposed by the judge rather than just a fraction of the sentence based on the discretion of a parole officer. He has stated that when a court enters a sentence of imprisonment, there should be a reliable expectation that the offender will serve a substantial majority of that term of imprisonment. Judge Pryor is reasonable and rational, acknowledging the Nation's overburdened and overcrowded correctional facilities and the need for more community-based programs for first-time or non-violent offenders.

Although the Federal guidelines themselves have been completed for many years now, the members of the commission are tasked with ensuring that the guidelines do not result in the same disparity or injustice that they were designed to prevent. The guidelines perform an invaluable function, one which I think Judge Pryor's background and experience have made him uniquely well-suited to oversee.

Judge Pryor is a life-long public servant who will certainly be an asset to the U.S. Sentencing Commission as he represents the highest quality of leadership. I appreciate the support of my colleagues in Judge Pryor's confirmation.

EQUAL PAY ACT ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I come to the floor today to recognize an important anniversary. Fifty years ago Congress passed the Equal Pay Act, a law that was to ensure pay equity for women in the workplace. This landmark legislation was signed into law by President Kennedy on June 10, 1963, and prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in the payment of wages by employers. The goals of the legislation were groundbreaking. It was the first time Congress acted on this issue, addressing a real and growing problem as more women entered the workforce. Congress stepped up to the plate and took the first attempt at fixing outright discrimination that was bound to have an impact on working families across America.

Today we find ourselves in a similar place, in need of a solution because the Equal Pay Act is in need of fixing. It